

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Claims 1 to 24 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,796,633 (Burgess) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,500 (Lau) and U.S. Patent No. 5,717,604 (Wiggins). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns identifying a license management server computer on a display screen from among a plurality of displayed devices. According to the invention, a license management server computer that is used by a data processing apparatus and that has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to the data processing apparatus and any other of a plurality of computers is discriminated from among a plurality of computers. A display which displays a plurality of computers is controlled so as to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer to that it can be distinguished from one or more of the plurality of computers that receive a predetermined license from the license management server computer. Thus, the user can readily determine which device displayed on the display screen is the license management server computer from other devices that have received the license.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a data processing apparatus that is adapted to communicate data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network,

comprising display means for displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices as symbol information, respectively, on a display screen, first discriminating means for discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a license management server computer that is used by the data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least one of said data processing apparatus and any other of the plurality of computers, and first control means for controlling said display means to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated by said first discriminating means such that the license management server computer may be distinguished from one or more of the plurality of computers that receive the predetermined license from the license management server computer on the display screen.

Amended independent Claims 5 is an apparatus that includes features substantially corresponding to Claim 1, while Claims 9 and 13 are method claims that substantially correspond to Claims 1 and 5, respectively, and Claims 17 and 21 are computer medium claims that substantially correspond to Claims 1 and 5, respectively.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a data processing apparatus discriminating, from a plurality of computers, a license management server computer that is used by the data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least one of the data processing apparatus and any other of a plurality of computers, and controlling a display means to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer such that the license management server computer

may be distinguished from one or more of the plurality of computers that receive the predetermined license from the license management server computer.

The Office Action admits that Burgess fails to disclose discriminating a licensor (license management server) computer from among a plurality of computers as claimed. Accordingly, Burgess also cannot control a display so that the discriminated license management server computer may be distinguished from other computers that receive a license from the license management server computer on a display screen.

Lau is merely seen to disclose determining a position of an object within a hierarchical structure. Objects can be flagged on a display so as to indicate the object's level in the hierarchy. Thus, while Lau may distinguish an object from others on a display, it is not seen disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling a display of a data processing apparatus so that a license management server computer, discriminated as having a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least one of the data processing apparatus and any other of a plurality of computers, may be distinguished from one or more of the plurality of computers that receive the predetermined license from the license management server computer. The Office Action also admits that Burgess and Lau fail to teach such a feature, but cites Wiggins as allegedly making up for this deficiency.

Wiggins is merely seen to disclose that, if a license does not exist, an apparatus is connected to another available licensor server, and that if there are not available licenses, a message to this effect is displayed. However, Wiggins is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Burgess and Lau, would have resulted in the feature of a data processing apparatus discriminating, from a plurality of

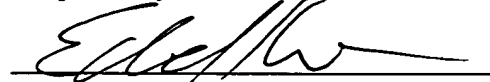
computers, a license management server computer that is used by the data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least one of the data processing apparatus and any other of a plurality of computers, and controlling a display means to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer such that the license management server computer may be distinguished from one or more of the plurality of computers that receive the predetermined license from the license management server computer.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, the proposed combination of Burgess and Lau is not believed to have rendered the present invention obvious. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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